RUSSIA AND THE "WASHINGTON UNION."

To the Editors of the National Intelligencer: An article in the Washington Union newspaper of the 19th May, 1853, on the Russian Empire, has been made the subject of so much malicious misconstruction and senseless abuse that the writer considers it a duty to address

the public in its justification. If you will permit me to make the columns of the National Intelligencer the medium of that address, you will confer upon me a favor which I will properly appreciate. That we may have all the points in controversy within

view, I beg you to subjoin the original article from the Union-the pretext of that stupid clamor which I mean to rebuke and discredit in the opinion of every honest and intelligent man.

A book, in my judgment a very wild and silly book, had been written and published with the avowed object of placing this country and the Russian Empire in warlike antagonism. The aim and fundamental idea of the book are succinctly but quite accurately set forth by a critic in

"The 'Ormuzd' and 'Ahriman' of the political world are liberty and despotism; and their purest incarnations are the Republic of America and the Empire of Russia. Within fourscore years these two Powers have grown from insignificance to be the arbiters of the world! An inevitable contest is at hand; the Apocalyptic battle of Arma-geddon is soon to be fought, and the question which Ame-ricans have to decide is, not whether they will live in peace and repose, or gratuitously go on a crusade for liberty throughout the world, but, the absolute necessity of a contest with the combined powers of despotism being apparent, shall we wait till those Powers, having utterly ted out free Governments from Europe, shall turn their might for our destruction, alone and without allies, or shall we now seize the first opportunity of a decisive outbreak in Europe to aid the cause of freedom with arms and money, fight our battle by the armies of European revolutionists on the field of Europe, and by the aid of our allies forever settle the question between freedom and

Now, as editor of a journal which is generally thought to be in some sort the organ of the Administration. I considered it my duty to counteract, as far as possible, the mischievous tendency of the wild theories of this book. With that design I wrote the leader in the Union of the 19th of May. I was anxious to soothe any irritation and to remove any unjust prejudices against Russia which the book might possibly engender in this country. It was my wish to indicate that the views of the Government were pacific, and to express such sentiments as, being perfectly just, would contribute to perpetuate the relations of friendship which have ever subsisted between the United States and the Russian Empire. It was essential to this purpose that I should discredit the statements and expose the fallacy of the arguments of the book before me. This I undertook to accomplish by showing, first, that the Russian Government is not the monster of iniquity, the incarnation of evil, which it was represented to be; and, secondly, that the United States and Russia, so far from being-opposed to one another by an inevitable antagonism, have ever been bound together by the close ties of friendship and reciprocal esteem. You will perceive that it did not fall within the scope of my design to narrate in detail the history of the Russian Empire, and to enumerate and balance the merits and defects of the Russian Government. This was irrelevant to my argument. If I had undertaken such a task, I would unquestionably have denounced the instances of tyranny and op-pression of which the Russian Government, like every other Government in Europe, has frequently been guilty. I would, with especial emphasis, have denounced Russian intervention in the Hungarian struggle of 1849. But, my object being to combat the positions and conclusions of the book under review, I did not wander beyond the road before me into an irrelevant display of historical learning and philanthropic indignation.

No specific accusation of false statement or fallacious

reasoning has been made against the article in the Union. Not one of its assertions has been disputed; not one of its positions has been assailed. An indefinite and senseless clamor is the sort of opposition it has encountered. An ap-peal to blind ignorance and stupid prejudice, and such inco-herent raving against despotism as we read about twelve months since in the pages of the Democratic Review, will scarcely make an impression upon the public mind. But, as much to carry out my original purpose and to strenthen my positions as to guard against a popular miscon-ception, I propose to show, by abundant evidence of the highest authority, that I have neither misrepresented the condition of the Russian Empire, nor mis-stated the relations which have subsisted between the Russian Government and this Republic.

I am not the culogist of the Russian Empire. I but which they have so long and so gallantly sustained." state facts which none can deny. As a journalist, I brought to the attention of the American people important truths, which concern them as a nation. If censure must at tach, it is to Providence for ordaining and history for recording these facts, and not to the journal that relates them in a manner conducive to the public welfare.

McCulloch, a writer of the highest authority in the department of political statistics, albeit imbued with British prejudice of Russian power, makes the following statement in his Geographical Dictionary :

"But it may well be doubted whether, in the actual state of Russia, the present form of government be not better adapted to its wants than any that could be substituted in its stead. It is sufficiently clear, as well from general principles as from what has actually occurred, that hussian Princes can-not safely follow a course of conduct generally disliked by the nation. On the other hand, however, the extent and unity of the sovereign power is the best security for the progress of civilization, and for the improvement and well-being of the mass of the people. The latter being, for the most part, slaves, without property, intelligence, or influnce, would be tyrannized over to an incomparably greater extent than at present, had the nobles any share in the Government, or were they able to control its proceedings. What Poland was Russia would be, were the nobility or superior classes participating in the sovereign power. But the interests of the autocrat in the sovereign power. But the interests of the autocrat and those of the mass of the people are generally identical. and those of the mass of the people are generally identical.
Under his protecting segis civilization is daily extending, and
a class of free haborers is gradually growing up. The Emperor is afraid of the nobles, not a few of whom are supposed
to be tinctured with liberal principles; but he has nothing 40
fear from their slaves. Hence, the despotic power of the former over the latter has been materially reduced; very great
changes for the better have been made in the condition
of the reasonary on the grown estates, and the Governof the peasantry on the crown estates; and the Govern-ment has gone steadily on, with quite as much rapidity as circumatances would warrant, endeavoring to improve and advance the servile portion—that is, the great mass of its sub-jects—and to pave the way for their ultimate enuancipation. An ealightened despotism is, in fact, the most suitable Gov-ernment for such a country as Russia. A representative con-stitution would interest put additional power into the hands of a comparatively small class, and would be as little adapted to the wants of such a country as an absolute Government would be in England."

Again: "It is a curious fact that, notwithstanding the des-Again: "It is a curious fact that, notwithstanding the despotical nature of the Government, all the provincial tribunals consist partly of elective functionaries. It is a principle in Russia that a portion of the judges in every court should belong to the same class as the party whose interests are under discussion, and be elected for that purpose by his compects."

"Crime is not frequent in Russia, and property is as well protected in it as in any other country. Capital punishments are rare, treason being the only crime visited with death."

"It is sufficiently clear, from what has already been seen, that such a revolution as should materially modify the power of the Car would not be for the advantage of the bulk of the people, but the reverse." In regard to the condition of the

people, but the reverse." In regard to the condition of the serfs, the same writer remarks: "Oppression and ill-treatment are now a good deal less common than formerly, and it is certainly true that the condition of the boors is by no means so bad as might a priori be concluded, and that, as respects their command over the necessaries of life, they are in a much better situation than the persentry of Ireland. Those on the estates of humane and enlightened landlords are in decidedly comfortable circumstances, while they all have sufficient supplies of the necessaries of life. Some licensed slaves have accumn-

lated very large fortunes."
Of the Emperor Nicholas, McCulloch observes that, "the present occupier of the throne has every quality—good sense, undaunted courage, great decision, and the utmost vigilance and activity—required in the ruler of such a country."

I might quote from the same writer statements showing the rapid increase and diffusion of commerce, manufac tures, the arts, science, and literature in the Russian empire, and the onward progress of the nation in the career f civilization. I might accumulate, from the testimony of intelligent travellers, evidence of the growing pros-perity and happiness and power of the Russian nation. But what I have said would suffice to substantiate my assertions if they had been far stronger than they are. Allow me, nevertheless, before passing to another point, to give a brief extract from the work of a German writer, long a resident in St. Petersburg :

space does not here permit a more extensive sketch of what the Emperor Nicholas has done, and still is daily doing, for the true freedom of his subjects; but what I have here brought forward must surely suffice to place him, in the eyes of every unprejudiced person, in the light of a real lover of his people. That his care has created a paradise—that no highly criminal abuse of power, no shameful neglect prevails in the departments of justice and police—it is hoped no reflecting reader will infer from this exposition of facts. But the still existing abuses alter nothing in my view of the Emperorm of the exposition of the contraction [Pietures from St. Petersburgh, by Edw. Jermann, p. 28.

But it seems that no portion of the article in the Union gave such offence to my critics as that which adverts to the past and present friendship of the United States and Russia, and which inculcates the policy of consolidating and perpetuating their amicable relations. The susceptible philanthropy of these self-constituted champions of universal liberty is shocked at the bare suggestion of a treaty of amity with the dreadful Ahriman ; no league with Satan ; no compact with the Prince of Darkness, but war, immediate war—war to the knife and to the hilt—is the cry of that frantic crew who have inherited the zeal without even the discretion of Anacharsis Clootz. Let us see what the policy of this country has been in respect to Russia, and what the counsel of our great statesmen. In the first volume of the "History of the War of 1812-'13," by Charles J. Ingersoll, page 464, the following paragraph may be found :

graph may be found:

"Jefferson, perceiving, what few Americans did, the importance to the United States of both political amity and commercial intercourse with the great Asiatic empire which Russia has established in Europe, soon after the accession of the Emperor Alexander, resolved on cultivating his good will. The Emperor Alexander was, independently of his high position, one of the most remarkable men of his age; well educated, well informed, liberal, generous, and regarded this country with such kindness that, on the most despotic throne of the Old World, he freely expressed his admiration of the republican institutions of the new. Jefferson sent Levitt Harris as American consul to St. Petersburgh, through whom a correspondence ensued between the Russian Emperor and the American President, which began the good relations that have subsisted without interruption between the most absolute and bsisted without interruption between the most absolute and the most popular of sovereignties. One of the last acts of Jefferson's administration was to nominate an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Russia."

President Madison, too, in his fourth annual message, informed Congress "that from Russia we have the satisfication."

faction to receive assurances of continued friendship, and that it will not be affected by the rupture between the United States and Great Britain."

In a special message of the 25th of May, 1813, Presi-

lent Madison said:

"At an early day after the close of the last session of Congress an offer was formally communicated from his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia of his mediation, as the com-mon friend of the United States and Great Britain, for the mon friend of the United States and Great Britain, for the purpose of facilitating a peace between them. The high character of the Emperor Alexander being a sufficient pledge for the sincerity and impartiality of his offer, it was immediately accepted."

In the seventh annual message of President Monroe and in immediate connexion with the announcement of the famous principle of Continental policy with which his name is identified, he states that— "The Government of the United States has been desirons,

by this friendly proceeding, of manifesting the great value which they have invariably attached to the friendship of the Emperor, and their solicitude to cultivate the best understandng with his Government." In his eighth annual message, President Monroe, after

announcing the settlement with Russia of important questions respecting the northwest coast of this contient, concludes with the following language: "It is proper to add that the manner in which this nego-

tiation was invited and conducted on the part of the Emperor has been very satisfactory."

In the second annual message of John Q. Adams, the death of the Emperor Alexander is announced in the fol-"By the decease of the Emperor Alexander of Russia,

which occurred cotemporaneously with the commencement of the last session of Congress, the United States have been deprived of a long-tried, steady, and faithful friend. prived of a long-tried, steady, and taithful friend. Born to the inheritance of absolute power, and trained in the school of adversity, from which no power on earth, however abso-lute, is exempt, that monarch from his youth had been taught to feel the force and value of public opinion, and to be sensible that the interests of his own Government would be best promoted by a frank and friendly intercourse with this repub-lic, as those of his people would be advanced by a liberal com-mercial intercourse with our country. A candid and confi-dential interchange of sentiments between him and the Govdential interchange of sentiments between him and the Government of the United States, upon the affairs of South America, took place at a period not long preceding his demise, and contributed to fix that course of policy which left to the other Governments of Europe no alternative but that of sooner or later recognising the independence of our southern neighbors, of which the example by the United States had already been set.

* * * We have the most satisfactory assurances that the sentiments of the reigning Emperor towards the United States are altogether conformable to those which had a long States are altogether conformable to those which had so long and constantly animated his Imperial brother; and we have reason to hope that they will serve to cement that harmon and good understanding between the two nations, which founded in congenial interests, cannot but result in the advancement of the welfare and prosperity of both."

And again, in his third annual message, President Adams said :

" Since the accession of the Emperor Nicholas to the impe rial throne of all the Russias, the friendly dispositions toward the United States, so constantly manifested by his predecessor, have continued unabated, and have been recently testified by the appointment of a Minister-Plenipotentiary to reside at this Court. From the interest taken by this Soccretifi in behalf of the suffering Greeks, and from the spirit with which others of the great European Powers are co-operating with him, the friends of freedom and humanity may indulge the hope that

Adams, speaking of the reception of the Monroe doctrine | belong to this school of political maniacs. They were conby the Governments of Europe, assured Congress that Russia had never disputed the positions upon which that declaration was based, nor manifested the slightest · dissatisfaction at their having been taken.'

President Jackson was not less emphatic in expression of friendship for the Russian Government. In his first annual message he took occasion to say that "in Russia, placed by her territorial limits, extensive population, and great power high in the rank of nations, the United States have always found a steadfast friend. Although her recent invasion of Turkey awakened a lively sympathy for those who were exposed to the desolations of war, we cannot but anticipate that the result will prove honorable to the cause of civilization and to the progress of human happiness.

And again, in his second annual message, he spoke with still greater emphasis :

"Our relations with Russia are of the most stable charter. Respect for that empire, and confidence in its friendship towards the United States, have so long been entertained on our part, and so carefully cherished by the present Emperor and his illustrious predecesor, AS TO HAVE BECOME INCORPORATED WITH THE PUBLIC SENTIMENT OF THE UNITED STATES. No means will be left unemployed on my part to promote these salutary feelings, and those improvements of which the commercial intercourse between the two countries is susceptible, and which as derived increased importance from our treaty with the This was the language of Andrew Jackson. In his fifth

nual message he announced the conclusion of a treaty of commerce and amity with the Russian Government :

"The friendly relations which have always been maintain-United States and Russia have been further extended and strengthened by a treaty of navigation and com-merce, concluded on the sixth December, 1872. The liberal provisions of the treaty are now in full force, and, under the encouragement which they have received, a flourishing and increasing commerce, yielding its benefits to the enterprise of both nations, affords to each the just recompense of wise mea-sures, and adds new motives for that mutual friendship which the two countries have hitherto cherished towards each other.'

And, finally, in the first annual message of Mr. Van Buren it was said that "between Russia and the United States sentiments of good will continue to be mutually cherished. Our Minister recently accredited to that Court has been received with a frankness and cordiality, and with evidences of respect for his country, which leave us no reason to doubt the preservation in future of those amicable and liberal relations which have so long and so uninterruptedly existed between the two countries.'

Such were the sentiments and the policy of the great

statesmen of this country in respect to the Russian empire. These are the stars by whose light I was misled, I am to be thought to have wandered from the correct path. If, by recognising the true condition of the Russian empire, and by suggesting the policy of cementing our amicable relations with it, I betray the cause of republicanism, I have whatever consolation may be derived from the association and sanction of the best and wisest men whose names are known in American history. What care I for the yelping of "Young America;" for the reproaches, the ridiculous declamation, and the clumsy viuperation of that little crew of political adventurers who mbarked their fortunes in the Democratic Review, and who, since the wreck of that piratical barque, have sought so pertinaciously, and by such ingenious artifices, to get their fingers in the public purse—I ask, why should I regard the insignificant and inconsequential clamors of such they, when I feel myself sustained and approved by the wisdom of Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Adams, and Jackson? I am aware that, by invoking the authority of these illustrious men, I incur the hazard of a sneer from Young America;" but I do not believe that the senseless reproach of foggism has altogether discredited the fathers of the republic in the esteem of the American people. The author of the Declaration of Independence and the hero of New Orleans, albeit they culogized the Rus-

sian Empire and the Russian Emperor, will still be thought good enough patriots and friends of freedom by the great mass of thinking men.

It is manifest that the original article in the Union newspaper was not written without consideration and without a purpose. That purpose I have already indicated. Before me lay a book in which the dangerous and insane doctrine of intervention in European affairs was advocated in all its foily. I thought it my duty to protest against this doctrine. In the conduct of the Washington Union, so far as its conduct has devolved upon me,

peror's character, of his assiduous efforts to raise his nation out of the deep slough in which it still is partly sunk, of his efficacious endeavors to elevate his people to a knowledge and use of their rights as men, alter nothing in my profound persuasion that Car Nicholas I. is the true father of his country.

But it forms that adventurous fillibuster feeling whose excesses all sensible men dread, by combating the wild theories of interventionists, and by advocating and commending a cautious, just, moderate, and conservative tone in the foreign policy of this Govadvocating and commending a cautious, just, moderate, and conservative tone in the foreign policy of this Gov-ernment. In this spirit, and with this view, the article erament. In this spirit, and with this view, the article upon Russia was conceived and written. Besides, it is fit that some recognition should be made of the uniform and faithful friendship which the Russian Government has always manifested toward this country. It is a favorite dream of our American disciples of Louis Blanc and Ledru Rollin, the men of the Mountain, that the United States and Russia are fore-ordained foes—that it is their mission ultimately to rush in dread collision, and by wager of battle to determine the grand problem of human freedom. We have seen that the thing was not so understood by our fathers. We have seen that Russia has not manifested any hatred or antagonism toward the United States, but, on the contrary, has always been our steadjust friend. There was a moment when, if it had been the design of Russia to erush this republic, she might have done something towards the accomplishment of her object. After the repulse of Napoleon at Moscow, and when it was evident that his star was about to set, Russia with her allies might have abetted England in her invasion of this country. But Alexander, the despot friend of Jefferson, was no sooner relieved from the pressure of Napoleon's power than he set about the task of restoring peace between the United States and Great Britain. He proposed a negotiation, and volunteered his mediation, which our Government accepted and England rejected.

The good-will of Russia toward the United States has been manifested in other respects. The institution of slavery has been no enormity in her eyes. She has never of the abolition crusade an engine of warfare against republican institutions. In other despetic countries of Europe the mania of abolition has run its career, but in Russia the maudlin, mock philanthropy of Uncle Tom's Cabin is an unknown disease. Upon this fact, the author of "The War of Ormuzd and Ahriman" based the infamous insinuation "that had the sword of South Carolina and Mississippi been drawn, (in the late controversy,) Russian gold, or cannon, or ships would not have

In proposing to conciliate the power and to secure the good-will of the Russian Government, I had still another object in view. It is thought, especially by that small knot of crazy gentlemen who bear the ambitious designation of "Young America," that it is the interest and policy of the United States to secure the annexation of Cuba, the Sandwich Islands, and all other defenceless

portions of the earth's surface.

Now, suppose circumstances should make this the policy of the United States, from whom have we to apprehend opposition to our interests? It is hardly necessary that I should answer—from England and France. Is it not therefore the part of sound policy and true diplomacy to detach Russia from an alliance with these Powers, and thus to curb their transationties white the research thus to curb their transatlantic ambition by the necessity of attending to their own affairs? Russia was not a party to the treaty for the guarantee of the Spanish dominion n Cuba. It is our interest at least to secure the neutrality of Russia. But I need not enlarge upon this point;

its force will be appreciated by the intelligent mind.

President Adams spoke of the congenial interests of Russia and the United States. It was for the advancement of these congenial interests that I proposed to cultivate the good will of Russia. That homogeneity extends farther than the superficial disciples of "Young America" imagine. If the armed neutrality of the Empress Catharine of 1780, and the armed neutrality of Paul in 1800, had accomplished their purpose, the maritime despotism of England would have been overthrown, the just construction of international law have been vindicated, and we would not have had to suffer from the same oppression and to fight for the same principles from 1800 to 1815. But it is to promote the commercial interests of this country that the statesman would solicit and cherish the friendship of Russia. Every body understands the expediency

of a pacific policy in this relation.

I know very well that denunciation of Russian intervention in the Hungarian struggle will be the only answer to what I have written. I repeat my abhorrence and detestation of the conduct of Russia in that conjuncture, just precisely as I condemn the conduct of England in breaking down the barriers of public law to wage a relentless and most bloody war against French democracy in its first struggles for freedom; and just precisely as I reprobate and loathe the hypocritical republic of France for its base treachery to the cause of defeating the heroic efforts of the regenerated Romans. But it is not the mission of this country to play the censor of the world or the champion of humanity, and to march forth, like another mad knight, to avenge the wrongs of the victim and scourge the sins of the oppressor. No doubt Jefferson and Jackson condemned the un-holy partition of Poland, but it was not a grievance which they were commissioned to redress. Their solicitude for the friendship of Russia was not abated, and their conduct towards its Government was not the less conciliatory, for this gross violation of justice and public law. Austria and Russia, too, participants in the spoils, were still numbered among the friends of the United States. "Young America," in its impious self-conceit, would usurp the prerogative of deity, assume jurisdiction of the universe, sit in judgment on the conduct of nations, distribute re

chastened fanaticism. In a special message of March 15, 1826, President of American power and republican prosperity did not goodness and conceived in inscrutable wisdom. They were willing to leave the control of the universe to the great Arbiter of the Universe. They did not know but that Russian despotism was an instrument of Providence for the civilization and ultimate emancipation of millions of

benighted slaves. But they were Fogies. My apology for the prolixty of this communication is the absolute impossibility of curtailing its length without failing to accomplish its object.

In conclusion, I wish distinctly to state that I alone am responsible for the article in the Union of the 19th of May, and that whatever censure may attach to it should upon me. At the same time, I wish it understood that I mean neither to modify nor retract a single expression, sentiment, or principle in that article.
ROGER A. PRYOR.

THE ARTICLE ABOVE REFERRED TO. FROM THE WASHINGTON UNION OF MAY 19.

RUSSIA.—Mr. H. Winter Davis, a conspicuous orator in the late Scott campaign, has published a book with the fantastic title of "The War of Ormuzd and Ahriman," in which he affects to regard the United States and Russia as the respective riodical Agent champions of the principle of liberty and the principle of despotism, and to foresee in the distant future a mighty and decisive conflict between these puisesnt combatants in the great drama of human history. The fundamental idea of this book is so absurd a fiction that no effort of ingenuity or power of eloquence could clothe it in a plausible garb. It is perfectly and therefore to assume that it will not make much feetly safe, therefore, to assume that it will not make much impression upon the country when developed in the extravagant speculation and hyperbolical rhetoric of the puerile produc-

speculation and hyperbolical rhetoric of the puerile produc-tion of Mr. Davis.

The idea of an inevitable antagonism and ultimate conflict between the United States and Russia is so silly that we can only express surprise that any sensible man could entertain it for a moment. It was the dream of the Persian mythology that the spirits of good and evil-Ormuzd and Ahriman-waged a perpetual struggle for the ascendancy over man; but to assign any such Quixotic mission to nations is to betray a sad want of philosophic reflection. To assume as the basis of a grave disquisition an inevitable and mortal antagonism be-tween the United States and Russia is to betray an egregious ignorance of the past and present political relations of the ignorance of the past and present political relations

It is the idea of some enthusiasts that the science of government is a mere abstraction, and that its theoretical per fection necessarily implies its practical fitness for man in every condition. Persons who reason in this way may regard the Government of Russia as an unmixed evil; but when we consider the peculiar condition and wants of the Russian people and their aggregate of individual and national happiness, w will conclude that they are not so much the victims of oppression as such writers as the author of "Ormuzd and Ahriman" would represent. The Government of Russia may be a deswould represent. The Government of Russia may be a despotism, and for that reason abhorrent to the notions of republicans; but its effect upon the subject-people establishes its fitness for them. Under the Government of absolute monarchy the Russian nation have emerged from the depths of barbarism, and within a single century have taken position in the front rank of civilization. The great fact in European history for the last hundred years is the rise and progress of Russia. At the battle of Pultowa, July 8th, 1709, an infant nation struggled for existence. That infant has since grown to the stature of a giant, and, like a colossus, bestrides the continent of Europe. Its social development has been coincident with its growth in political power; its conquests in the realms of science, and art, and learning have even surpassed the vast achievements of its armies. In the rapidity of its progress it achievements of its armies. In the rapidity of its progress it has outstripped every nation in Europe, and the United States alone can present a parallel to its wonderful career. In every alone can present a parallel to its wonderful career. In every element of national strength and happiness Russia is great and prosperous beyond any other country of Europe. Its Government is more stable and efficient, and its people more contented than any other, while in respect to political supremacy it is universally recognised as the preponderating Power of the Old World. In the character of its rulera Russia. Power of the Old World. In the character of its rulers Russia has been singularly fortunate. In energy of will, honesty of purpose, and force of genius, they have for the most part presented a striking exception to the proverbial stupidity, cowardice, and meanness of legitimate royalty. When we contemplate the policy of the Russian Government through all the vicissitudes of its history, we are struck as much by the immense genius as by the colossal ambition of its monarchs. If the internal administration of the Government be conducted with any thing of the skill and energy which characterize its foreign policy, we need be at no loss to comprehend ducted with any thing of the skill and energy which charac-terize its foreign policy, we need be at no loss to comprehend the devoted loyalty and patriotism of the nation. And we have a right to infer, from the consummate ability of the Russian diplomacy, that its Government manifests no want of genius in conducting the domestic concerns of the Empire.

Whatever opinion may be entertained of the Russian Gov-ernment in an abstract view, it is idle to deny the energy of its administration and its perfect adaptation to the condition of the nation. The destruction of Moscow, the most heroic

The Governments of Russia and the United States are The Governments of Russia and the United States are based upon antagonistic principles; but their relations have ever been of the most amicable kind. President Jackson, in an official message, spoke of Russia as our ancient and steadfast friend. Mr. Jefferson, radical Democrat as he was, enjoyed and reciprocated the ardent esteem of the Emperor Alexander. Indeed, strange as it may seem to theorists of the "Ormuzd and Ahriman" school, this chivalrous Emperor entertained an admiration for American institutions. It was his friendly mediation that initiated the negotiation which resulted in the Treaty of Ghent, and it was by his arbitration resulted in the Treaty of Ghent, and it was by his arbitration that the citizens of the South got indemnity for the slaves which were kidnapped by the British in the last war. The reigning Emperor shares the feelings and opinions of his predecessor, and we have every reason to believe that the United States and Russia will consolidate and perpetuate their friendly relations by the same just and pacific policy which has regulated their intercourse in times past.

THE WASHINGTON NEWS MANUFACTORY.

wits, that of newsmonger-general at Washington deserves brief notice. There are certain journals who wish to show their enterprise by having a "well-informed" corthe rumors for journals in different parts of the country, and duplicate their letters in the same manner, the cost to each journal is trifling; the manufacturer being able to supply customers at low prices in consideration of the

For some time past the Washington news market has been rather dull, but its dullness does not nece sarily pipe must have noticed that a very small quantity of suds" will supply, to a skilful practitioner, an almost inexhaustible material. The rumor manufacturers are equal to the best bubble-blowers. In fact they surpass them; because the reproductive capacity of a Washington rumor is unlimited.

Thus, the rumor of to-day produces the explanator; rumor of to-morrow; the explanatory rumor produces the qualified rumor; the qualified rumor, the basis for reflections and contradictions, and these again give birth to tions and contradictions, and these again give birth to surmises, speculations, doubts, positive opinions, narrations of incidents, guessing of motives, assailings of intentions supposed to be entertained by the President, or praise of some view which he or some member of his Cabinet may, can, might, could, should, shall, will, or ought to take. And so the rumors run—positive, contradictory, ridiculous, and presumptive—until, at last, the rumorist finds he was all wrong, though he will devote half a dozen more despatches and as many letters claim ing credit for his wonderful accuracy.—New York Sun.

A Long Will.-Henry A. Hamilton was last week engaged recording in the books of the Probate Court of this county one of the longest wills perhaps of record in this State, if not in the United States. The will is that of the late Gen. James Taylor, of Newport, Kentucky. It covers 214 pages of royal octavo, closely, and we may add well written. The fee for recording it amounts to \$21.80. It relates to property valued at \$4,000,000, and gives freedom and property to more than twenty human beings and be recorded in each of them. The land owned by him in this county lies in Miami township, in the vicinity of Clifton.—Xenia (Ohio) Torchlight.

FROM THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE. Messrs. EDITORS: Having noticed the following inter-esting incident in the Alta California of the 13th of April, I send it to you, believing that it will interest others of your readers as much as it has me:

Speaking of the steamer Jenny Lind disaster, the editor s: "One of the most touching incidents, as being free from isk feeling, and exhibiting a generosity and a goodness of heart seldom seen, was the unremitting care and parental tenderness exhibited by Mr. F. F. Colyer to his friend and fellow-sufferer, Mr. Wyman. Although horribly scalded him-self, with his face and hands wrapped in poultices, and his eyes in such a condition as to be scarcely able to see, yet Mr. Colyer sat by the side of his agonized and also horribly scalded Colyer sat by the side of his agonized and also normly scaled friend, and, regardless of his own intense sufferings, was assiduous and unremitting in his attentions to him.

"They are both from the same place, Racine, Wisconsin have been always together while in this country, (California;

and are now occupying the seme room at the Rasetta House.

"This morning Mr. Colyer's eyes are entirely closed, and, though he has to be fed with a spoon, will touch nothing nor have any thing done for him until he knows that Mr. Wyman has been provided for." The Editor then goes on to say, truly, "Such instances of true friendship fall like the sunshine on the heart, and recall the beautiful description of the affection of

HARPER FOR JUNE.

for it is still increasing with greater rapidity than ever. This unparalleled and unexpected success has compelled the Pub-lishers to resort to extraordinary means for printing the work with the requisite rapidity, and at the same time preserving the typographical elegance by which it has always been disthe typographical elegance by which it has always been dis-tinguished. It is now electrotyped by a new process, which makes it easy to print any number of copies from the same plates without in the least impairing the clearness and beauty of the impression. The Publishers desire to repeat their cor-dial acknowledgments to the Press and the Public for the ex-traordinary favor which has thus far attended their efforts to interest and instruct the great body of the American people; and to renew their assurances that every possible effort will be made to increase still further the claims of their Magazine upon public favor and support. It will continue to present, at the cheapest price, the most interesting and instructive literary matter, original and selected, domestic and foreign, in the most elegant and convenient style, and accompanied by the finest pictorial illustrations which a lavish expenditure of money can command. They appeal with confidence to the past as a guarantee that their promises for the

tuture will be abundantly fulfilled.

Subscribers in any part of the United States may now receive the Magazine by mail, either from the Publishers, the Booksellors, or Periodical Agents, at three cents a number, or thirty-six cents a year postage, payable at the Post Office where

TERMS: The Magazine may be obtained of Booksellers, Periodical Agents, or from the Publishers, at THREE DOLLARS a year, or Twenty-Five Cents a Number. The Somi-annual volumes, as completed, nearly bound in cloth, at two dollars, and muslin covers are furnished to those who wish to have their back numbers uniformly bound at twenty-five cents of the night air.

ach. Six volumes are now ready, bound.

The Publishers will supply Specimen Numbers gratuitously of Agents and Postmasters, and will make liberal arrangements with them for circulating the Magazine. They will also but poorer still in all that comprises earth's richest treasupply Clubs, of two persons at five dollars a year, of five persons at ten dollars. Clergymen supplied at two dollars per Numbers from the commencement can still be supplied.

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TO THE EDITORS.

GENTLEMEN: I address you as philanthropists and statesmen, not as partisans. Through you I would desire to impress others. Shall I not be heard? I have no private purpose to serve. My aim is public good. One of the greatest of England's sons once declared, "the

only true spirit of tolerance consists in our conscientious

toleration of others' intolerance;" and in elaborating this

idea he added, "as much as I love my fellow-men, so

much and no more will I be intolerant to their heresies; and I will honor and hold forth the right hand of fellowship to every individual who is equally intolerant of that which he conceives such in me." So wrote the great Coleridge. He proscribed error, not the erring; while intolerant to heresy he could find in the heretic a friend. None in our day will be found to deny that he wrote justly and nobly, if these sentiments are applied to religion. But Coleridge was no less a philosopher and statesman than a theologian, and his reasoning will condemn political as desidedly as it does religious intolers. The stockholders of the whole distance of 710 miles, and the stockholders will own the road without paying a cent for their stock. It is a donation to them from the Government of seventeen millions of dollars—the estimated cost of the road—for their personal benefit. The land is already estimated to be worth that sum, and the loans for carrying on the work are based upon the value of those lands at that rate. Loans to the amount of some seven or eight millions have already been effected, and a new loan of three millions have already been effected, and a new loan of three millions have already been effected, and a new loan of three millions have already been effected, and a new loan of three millions have already been effected, and a new loan of three millions have already been effected, and a new loan of three millions have already been effected, and a new loan of three millions of dollars—the estimated cost of the road whole distance of 710 miles, and the stockholders will be when the road without paying a cent for their whole distance of 710 miles, and the stockholders will be whole distance of 710 miles, and the stockholders will be whole distance of 710 miles, and the stockholders will be whole distance of 710 miles, and the stockholders will be whole distance of 710 miles, and the stockholders will be whole distance of 710 miles, and the stockholders of the whole distance of 710 miles, and the stockholders will be whole distance of 710 miles, and the stockholders and I will honor and hold forth the right hand of fellowdemn political as decidedly as it does religious intolerance. But it is not left to great writers alone to do this. Among the many ingenious ways of living by one's Every man who thinks at all must reprobate in his heart, however he may excuse the practice of, all intolerance And most strange is it that in the freest country, our respondent at the Capital. They therefore contract for a number of rumors to be forwarded daily by telegraph, and for a number of letters weekly, amplifying and explaining the rumors. As one or two persons manufacture ments of the people and the genius of our institutions own, intolerance of political opinion and action should ments of the people and the genius of our institutions condemn the practice. Free, independent, republican America, proscriptive! Surely "truth is stranger than fiction." I will not pause, Messrs. Editors, to paint the suffering entailed on many an innocent and helpless family under this practice, because this is unnecessary produce a stringency in the rumor market. The two are, to a great extent, independent of each other. Wheever has seen boys blowing soap bubbles from the bowl of a theory. You have in it the essentials of the "reign of But I speak of the system as wrong in principle, and interror." Party is arrayed against party; leader against eader. If Robespierre triumphs, Danton must perish, though they be countrymen living under the same laws, boasting the same liberty!

We hurl fierce anathemas at the political errors and inconsistencies of other nations, forgetting that they were often induced by this identical spirit of intolerance, thinking it quite enough to justify the accusation that we do not project the principle to an intense and revolting ex-

The Emperors Domitian and Vespasian banished philosophers entertaining certain opinions from Rome. Had nothing else blackened their memory, this would have written their true characters on the page of history. The alien and sedition laws in our own times met with universal reprobation. Laws abridging the liberty of speech and the press are neither tolerated nor attempted. Yet proscription, intoleration of opinion and practice by the Government of a great people, is admitted. I speak of no particular party. All are alike blameworthy in this regard. This practice is itself even worse than an intolerant law, because it is frequently applied indiscriminately and without trial. And great as is this evil, it must enlarge itself with the enlargement and importance of their posterity. As the testator was the owner of real the country, unless those shall be found who, invested estate in twenty-six counties of this State, the will has to with the power, also possess the moral courage to resist and eradicate this evil. Great indeed, and worthy any effort, would be the service thus performed. Some would condemn, but only where interest prompted the censure. The people at large would applaud the act, and render due homage to the philanthropy and consistency that achieved it. I know not, Messrs. Editors, what your opinions on this topic are. I would fain hope you agree with me, and will be ready to lend your aid to break down the system of political intolerance. There must be a beginning in every work. Who shall lay the foun-WASHINGTON.

> INTERESTING FROM AUSTRALIA. - The California papers ontain advices from Hobart Town to the 25th of February. The gold fever at Sydney was more exciting than ever, and far exceeding that of 1849 in California. It was impossible to hire men to work at the most exorbitant rates on board vessels at anchor in the harbor, or to ship sailors for the voyage, all being carried away with the prodigious accounts from the mines.

The Victoria mines have yielded, up to the end of last year, four millions and ninety thousand ounces of gold, equal to £19,373,000. The Melbourne Argus says:

" Within the last few days three unparalleled masse Illustrated by more than 100 Engravings.

A New Volume Commenced—125,000 Copies Printed.

THE Present Number commences the Fourth Year and the Seventh Volume of HARPER'S NEW MONTHLY MAa hundred and thirty-four pounds and a half, of which upwards of a hundred and twenty pounds are pure gold. The other two lumps weigh 98 lbs. 2 oz. 5 dwts., and 83 lbs. 9 oz, 5 dwts., respectively, only a very small proportion being quartz. They are to be taken to England

Capitalists are beginning to suffer from a plethora of wealth, arising solely out of the mineral treasures found in the colony during the past year. At Sydney flour had the Memphis Convention. advanced to £23 a ton.

A FOUNDLING .- Last night, about ten o'clock, an infant, apparently three days old, was found on the door-step of house 111 Broadway. With the child, who was snugly stowed in a basket, was found the following letter of introduction: "The finder will please take care o me. I am a poor child. My father has gone into the country, and my mother has no means of supporting me."—New York Evening Post.

to look after, nobody to love me. A waif floating upon the current of life, to be drawn down by the whirlpool, or dashed to destruction against the rocks. I have no little brother to caress me, no little sister to fondle me in her arms. Leave me not to perish alone in the chill damps

"I am a poor child." Poor indeed art thou, little sures. Destitute of a mother's affections, a father's care. Cold are the night winds, and dark the shadows that encompass thee, but colder still is the long winter of life that is before thee, and deeper the darkness of the night which with thee is but just begun. Who shall ever love thee? Who shall draw thine own affections from the hidden wells of thine own nature? Whom wilt thou ever love? Where is thy sister, where thy brother? Sickness will come upon thee; who will watch by thy bedside in the silent hours, and answer thy feeble cry? Death may call thee home; who will wipe the cold damps from thy marble brow, and who will deck thy little corpse in garlands of fresh flowers for the grave? Who will weep over thee when thou art laid in thy last sleeping place, and who will drop a tear on the sod that will be green above thee? If thou art spared, little one, until reason shall dawn upon thee, let thy first prayer to the God of the helpless be to take thee to the home prepared for children in Heaven. Ask to be spared the trials, the temptations, the hard battle of life, for which no mother's instructions. no father's teachings have prepared, and against which parental guidance will help to sustain thee.

" My father has gone into the country, and my mother has no means of supporting me." The oft-told tale of man's cruelty and desertion, and possibly that of woman's weakness and shame. Hard at best, and deep and hope-less must that destitution be that plucks up from the mother's heart the instinct of natural affection. the poverty and want that impels her to cast her little one, in its helplessness, upon the cold charity of the world, to begin life homeless and friendless, a pauper in infancy, and to become at best, as life advances, a menial in the house of strangers .- Albany State Register.

A RESTLESS TONGUE. - A Boston lady has at this tim a somewhat novel disease—a continual motion of the tongue, which no device, effort of the will, or medication controls. We do not mean that she is a nuisance as a talker or a retailer of street gossip On the contrary, a worthier woman does not exist. She has expended five hundred dellars among the dentists for artificial teeth, which her unruly member has knocked out so repeatedly that they are now wholly abandoned. Her tongue is moving nimbly and involuntarily within the mouth, against the walls of the cheeks. In conversation the organ takes on a normal action, but runs instantly into its usual rapidity of motion at the conclusion of a sentence.—Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

A QUEEN'S PRESENT TO A QUEEN.—A steam packet recently arrived at Southampton, (Eng.) bringing a Ayena and a wild-cat as a present to Queen Victoria from the Queen of Portugal! FRUITS OF JACKSONISM.

There are those living who followed General JACKSON through all his crusades against the distribution of public lands to whom the following extracts from the Washington correspondence of the Baltimore Sun may be particu larly interesting, and we therefore commend them to their serious consideration as altogether worthy of their de-

liberate reflection : "The great Central Illinois Railroad Company appear te be in full tide of practical success. The grant of pub-lic land transferred to them will build the road for the

"The stockholders of the Southwestern branch of the Missouri and Pacific Railroad Company will never be obliged to pay one dollar for that road of 310 miles in length. The lands granted to the State by the Government things the state of th ment during the late session were transferred by the State to the company, and they will sell for enough to build the road. A loan will be soon proposed for the purpose of completing this road, and it will be based in a great measure on the value of the bonds. All these Western rail-roads will undoubtedly give dividends of ten per cent. on their cost, and besides are made at the expense of the public treasury. It was objected to the land distribution system by Gen.

Jackson and his partisans that it would corrupt the States. and therefore they arrested it. Now the lands are made by a Democratic Congress, which boasts its devotion to Jacksonism, the fruitful source of profit to the railroad stockholders and land speculators, while the old States. to whom the territory originally belonged, are entirely cut off from all participation in the proceeds of their sales. The truth of history is therefore but developing and

fulfilling the prophecies of the illustrious Clay and his distinguished compatriots, who advocated the distribution among all the States while yet the old States had the power to control the matter. Their counsels were disregarded, the system was repudiated, and we are now gathering the fruits of Jacksonism.

[Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle.

RAILROAD LIABILITIES.

It is not generally known that in the State of Connecticut a statute was framed in the session of 1848 which provides that "actions for injury to the person, whether such injury result in death or not, shall survive to the executor or administrator, provided not core than one year elapse between the injury and death, and provided also the cause of action shall have occurred subsequently to June 27, 1848."

This provision seems to have escaped general observa-tion, owing to the fact that before the Norwalk massacre no case had occurred for its application. The plain construction of this statute authorizes the executors of any person injured or killed through the neglect or default of any person, or corporation, to recover damages, and without any restriction as the the amount.

The Hartford Times is informed that one suit has already been commenced by the surviving relatives of an eminent deceased physician for twenty-five thousand dollars, and another by the friends of one of the deceased Boston passengers for one hundred thousand dollars. In New York a similar law exists, with the exception

that the damages cannot exceed five thousand dollars in each case. The object of this restriction was to guard against those vindictive and excessive damages which ju-ries, under the influence of passion, or inflamed by the artful appeals of advocates, will sometimes give. It is presumed that the New York and New Haven Railroad Company are liable to be sued under the law of New York as well as under that of Connecticut, as the contract of passage was made in New York, and the company is also New York corporation. If thus liable under the New York statute, the damages recovered against the New York and New Haven company, for those who were killed at Norwalk, would amount to two hundred and fiftyfive thousand dollars, and the damages for injuries to persons and destruction of property to fifty thousand dollars or sixty thousand dollars more. Under the statute of Connecticut, the damages for the dead would be limited only by the verdicts of juries.—Boston Atlas.

GREAT EARTHQUAKE IN THE MOLUCCAS .- There was a terrific earthquake and marine convulsion at Banda Neira on the 16th November. The houses, public and private, were reduced to heaps of ruins. The seaquake was, if possible, the more terrible. The Singapore Free Press lescribes the latter, wherein more than sixty persons lost their lives. From the islands Resengien and Ag, and from Coram, Amboina, and Ternante, we learn that the same earthquake was felt there.

UNITARIAN FESTIVAL .- The Unitarian Society of Boston held its usual festival in Faneuil Hall on Tuesday after-noon. Tables were set in all the galleries, as well as upon the platform and body of the hall. An immense throng was present, and the ceremonies are said to have been highly interesting.

CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA. - There is a prevision in the Constitution of South Carolina which prohibits the Governor from leaving the State during his term of office. Gov. Manning, of that State, has, in conse-

DEATH OF AN OLD CITIZEN .- The venerable JOHN Mc-Come died at New York on Wednesday morning, in the 90th year of his age. He was for many years street in-spector, and filled other public offices with acceptance. He was also one of the designers of the City Hall in New fork, and a contractor for its erection.

The Mobile Register says that the effort to place the United States frigate Columbus in the Dry-dock at Pensacola had been fully successful. The ship had been hauled into the basin, where the operations of cleaning and repairing would be speedily completed. The New York Journal of Commerce, in an article con-

demnatory of the Russ and Reid contract, remarks that the injunction which it has called forth, and which the Aldermen have seen fit to disobey, does not purport to re-strain the members of the Common Council from voting, but only the making of the contract, which remains to be completed by the head of the Department of Repairs and Supplies. No ship made of iron or propelled by steam has ever, says the Journal of Commerce, been struck by lightning.

LARGE LIQUOR SEIZURE .- On Friday last Marshal Jones seized forty or fifty barrels of different liquors, amounting in all to 1,345 gallons, the same having been brought from Boston by schooner Rochester, and placed in the storehouse on Flagg's wharf. There is no direction on the casks, and nothing to indicate the owner. It will be advertised under the provisions of the law, and disposed of as contraband, unless an owner appears, and proves the contrary. Another lot, contained in one barrel, three kegs, two demijohns, and two bottles, was seized at an establishment on State street kept by Greenleaf Brown. The keeper was prosecuted for alleged sale, convicted, and fined according to law, and the liquor ordered to be destroyed.—Kennebec Journal.

A gentleman of Stettin, who had a number of stuffed birds in his study, covered them with arsenic to secure their preservation. Soon afterwards he became seriously indisposed, without being able to assign any cause for illness, until it was discovered by a physician whom he con-sulted at Berlin that he had, from constant residence in the study, absorbed the deadly poison, with which his system became gradually impregnated

DEATH FROM CHLOROFORM. - Rev. J. Whippe, of Hubbard, Trumbull county, Ohio, lately inhaled chloroform preparatory to submitting to a surgical operation on the face. After inhaling the chloroform ten or fifteen inspirations his countenance changed, he straightened himself in his chair, drew several breaths, and died.

Four Persons Drowned .- On Monday evening last, while the steamboat Commodore and Worcester, from New York, were going through the Hurl Gate, a small boat, in which were six persons, was swamped between Ricke's Island and Hurl Gate, through the heavy swell caused by the steamer Commodore while passing them. Licel Stephen Horton, one of the Huri Gate pilots, with his small boat, saved two of the unfortunates; the other four were drowned

FATAL ACCIDENTS FROM CAMPHENE. - About 9 o'clock on Saturday evening a camphene lamp exploded in the house of Mr. Robert Anderson at Brooklyn, whereby his daughter, a little girl some 7 or 8 years of age, was so badly injured that she died about 4 o'clock the subsequent morning. The servant was filling the lamp while the wick was burning, and the child was standing by look-

on at the operation when the explosion took place.

On Friday evening a similar accident occurred at No. 267 Bridge street, involving the death of the servant girl, Bridget McGinnes. She held the lamp in her hand at the time it exploded, and the burning fluid saturating her dress, she was soon enveloped in flames.